MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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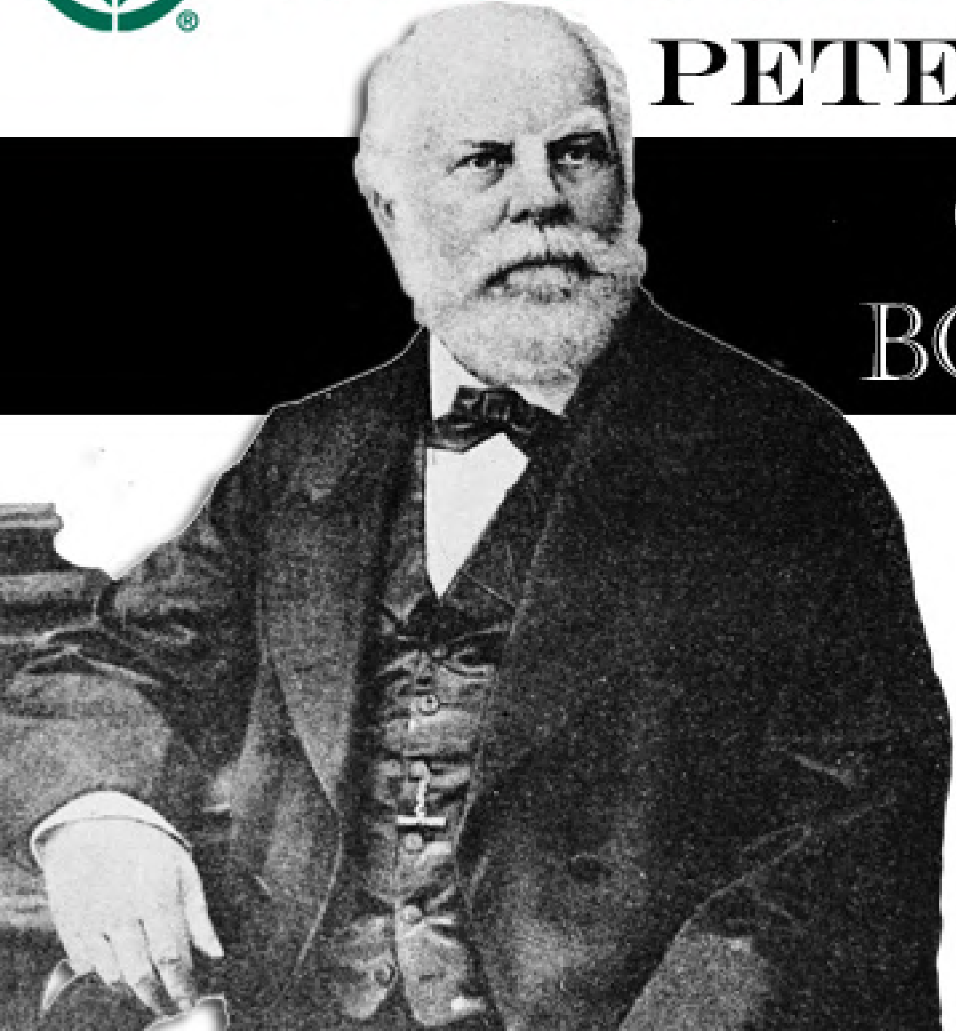

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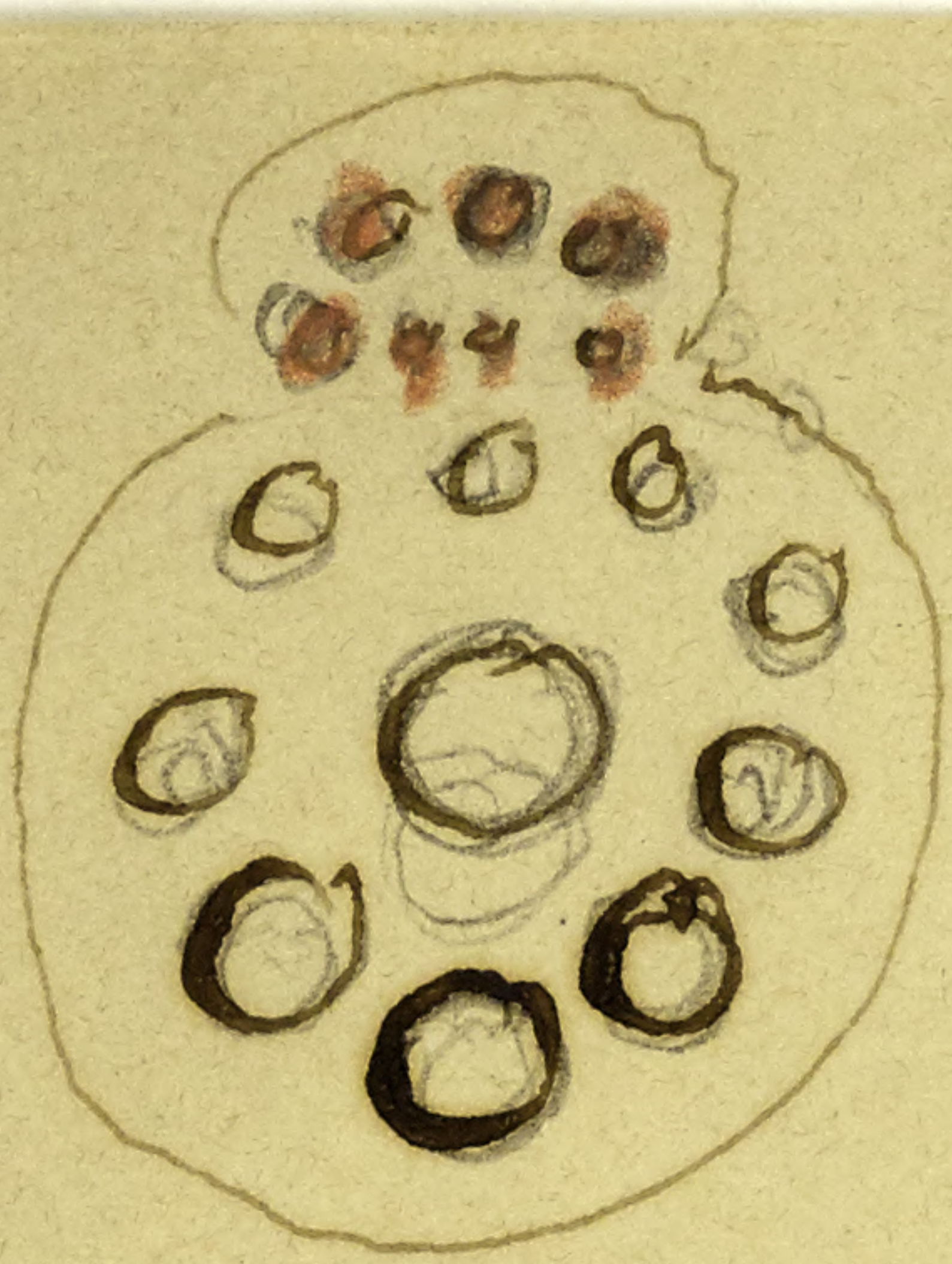
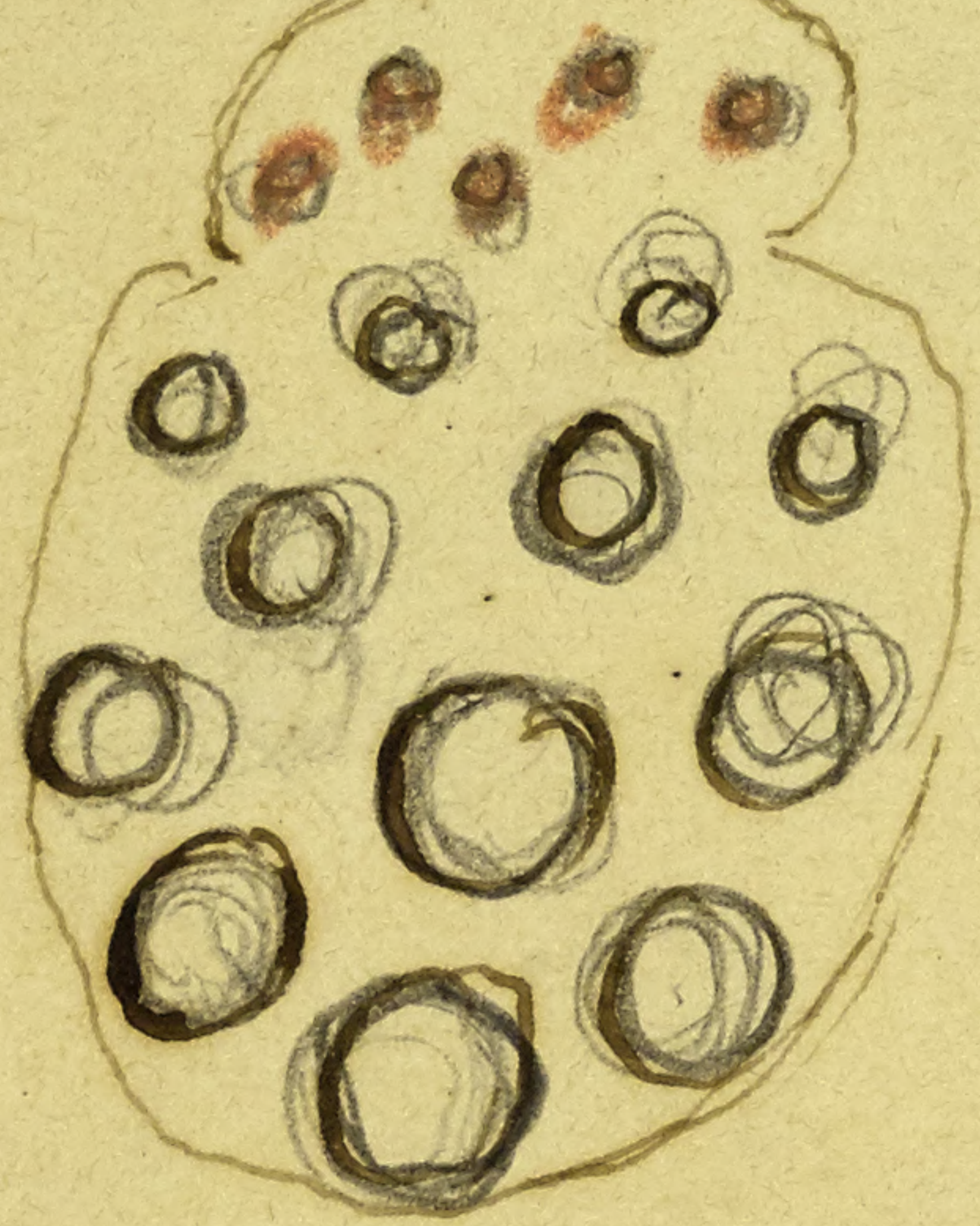
May 18. 1871

Melocactus

Dr Poselger ded 1858



Transition areolae from vegetative ribbed costate part to floriferous mamillate part of plant.



Aculei ~~Spi~~ from areola with ~~mainly~~ some wool, and 10–12 acicular somewhat recurved spines deep brown closely joined by a small axillary areola, with 5–7 small slender red spines, hidden in long wool.

1038

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Leitch & Corlies

DRUGGISTS

South West Corner Fifth and Market Streets

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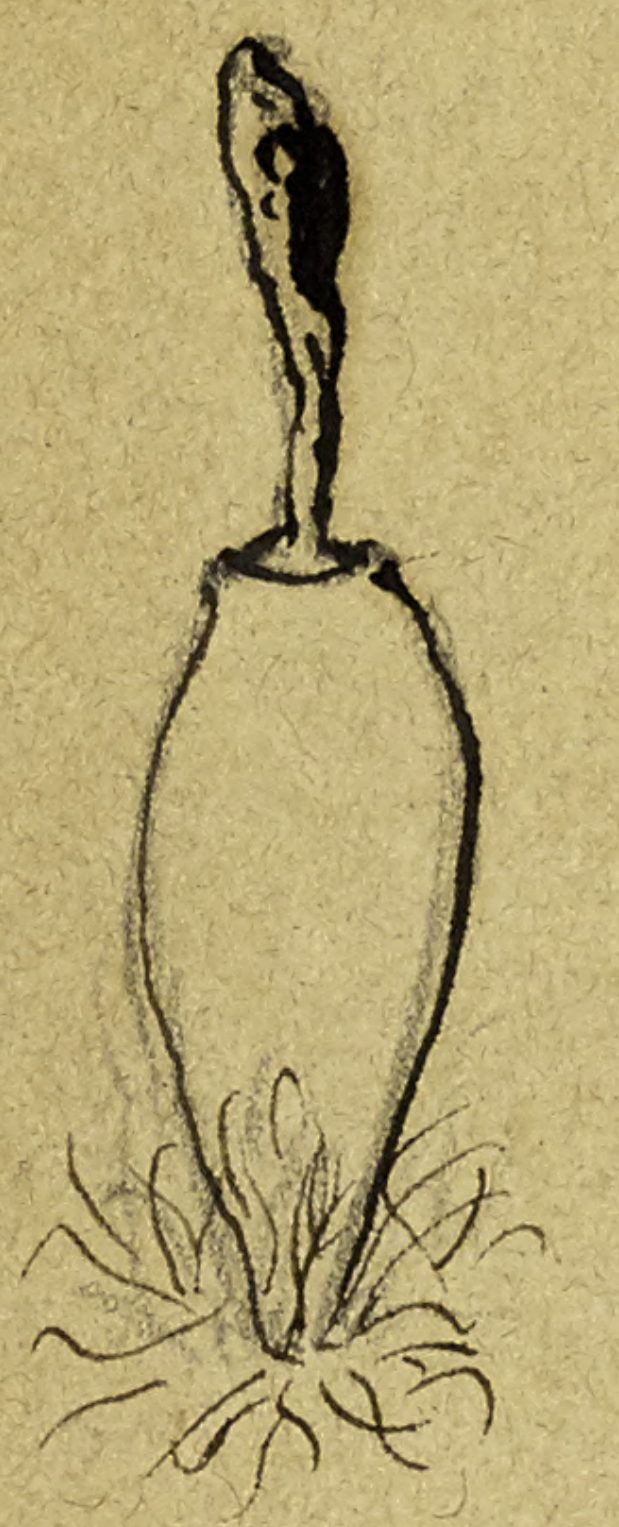
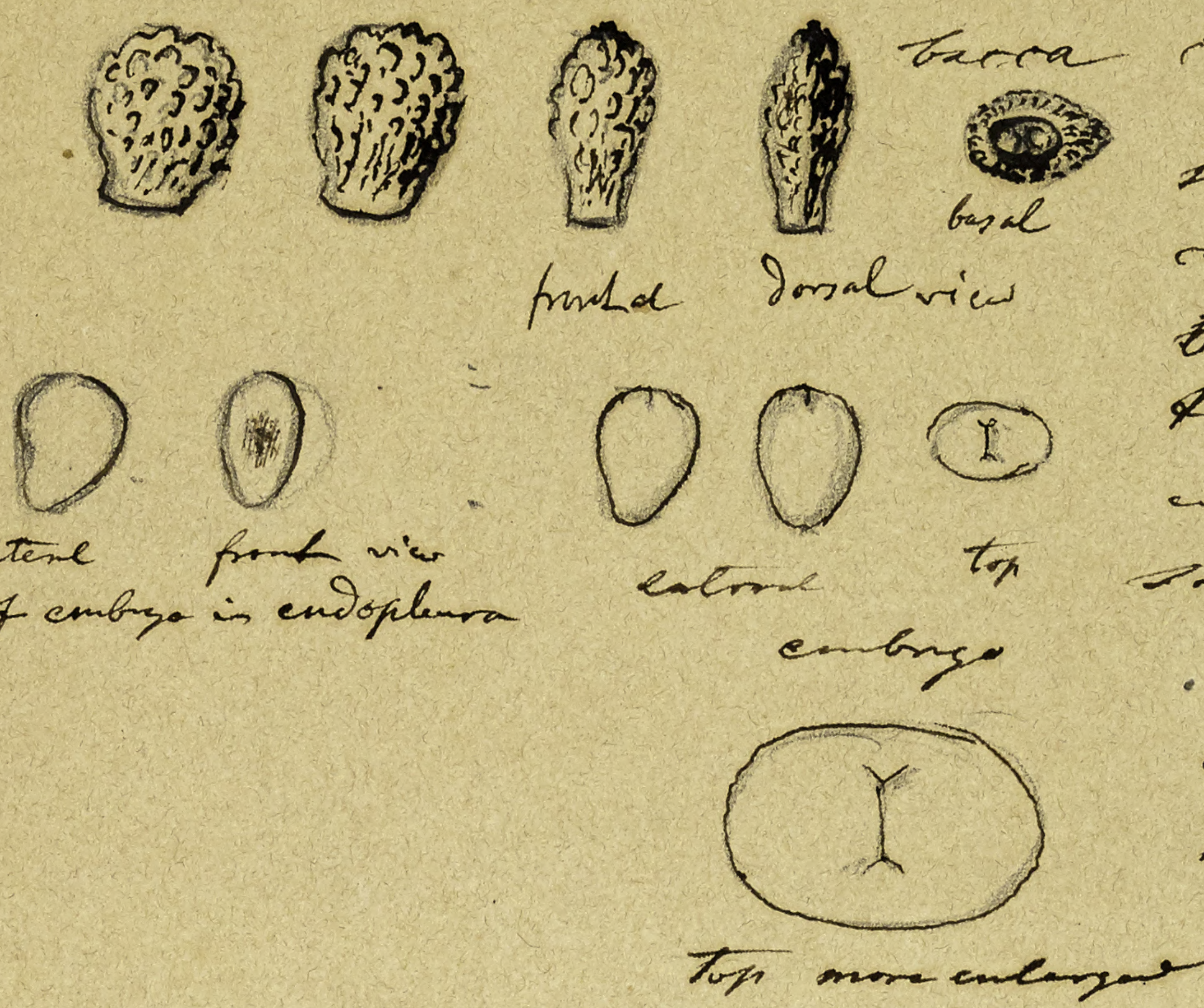
Melocactus

Frankfurt Febr 1857.

1039




basal
frontal dorsal view
lateral front view
of embryo in endopleura
lateral top
embryo
top more enlarged

Melocactus communis (Hort. Dyck)

bacca clavata coriacea; ~~flore~~ persistente

seed 0.6 subglobose obovate somewhat compressed; carinate on back; black, strongly and irregularly tuberculate; ; hilum oval, basilar with two impressions — (seed very similar to Anhalonium)

After a very careful examination of more than 10 seeds I find invariable the embryo with very short *transverse* cotyledons differing essentially from Mammillaria with *parallel* cotyledons!

Cephalium brown, fruit rose red, not scarlet.
ribs
stout spines

Embryo obovate compressed, 0.4 l. long, exalbuminous; with brown thickening of the endopleura. Embryo with a very slight slit in the top, transverse, separating ~~both~~ cotyledons;

Hb. Acad. Monac. Aug 1869

1040

Melocactus mirabilis Mart.

in Campis saxosis ad Joazeiro et S. Imba
Prov. Bahiensis leg. Martius Aprili.

Only parts of the Cephalium with fruit.
The plant is named here but apparently described nowhere — a mere herbarium-name.

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1870

Miquel Melocact p. 121

i Brasilia

1041

M. violaceus Pfeiff
M. oreas Miq. Bahia
M Besleri Link & Otto

M. depressus Hook
M pentacentrus Lem (Bahia)

Cuba

M communis ?

M Havannensis Miq.

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J. C. KIRKBRIDE
DRUGGIST
Nº 2600 OLIVE STREET, S.W. CORNER OF PRATTE AV.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

Hb. Kew Sept 1869

1042

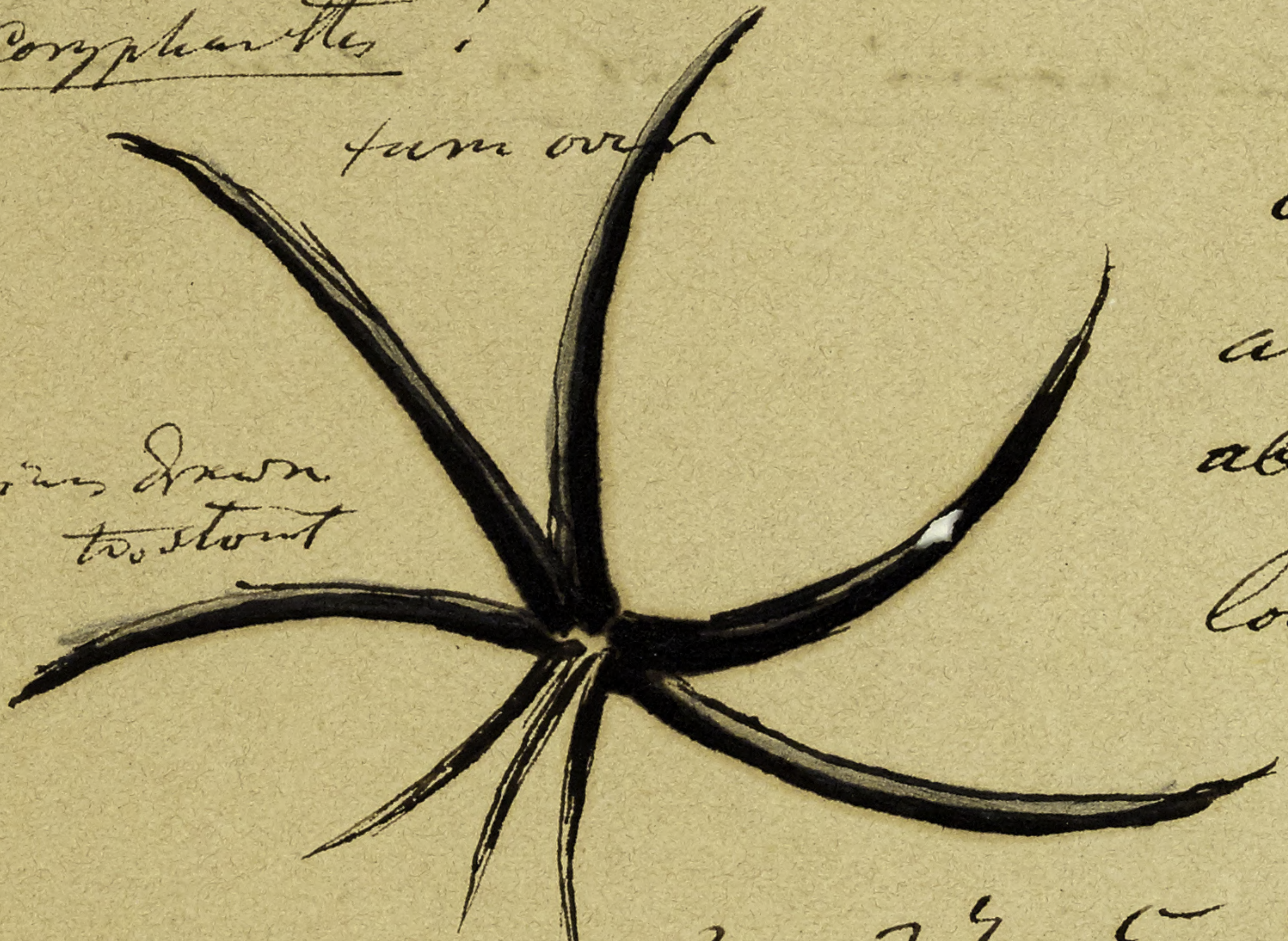
Burchell, Catalogus Geographicus
Plantarum Brasiliae tropicae. } printed label

No. 7815 , betw. Goyaz & Cavalcante } in ink
23 Sept 1828

Melocactus araneosus Burch. MSS. } in pencil

Some Spines only!

A Coryphantha?



turn over

spines drawn too stout

Spines 5 upper (?) ones, very stout and black, and about 3 (or 4) lower (?) ones — much shorter & slender

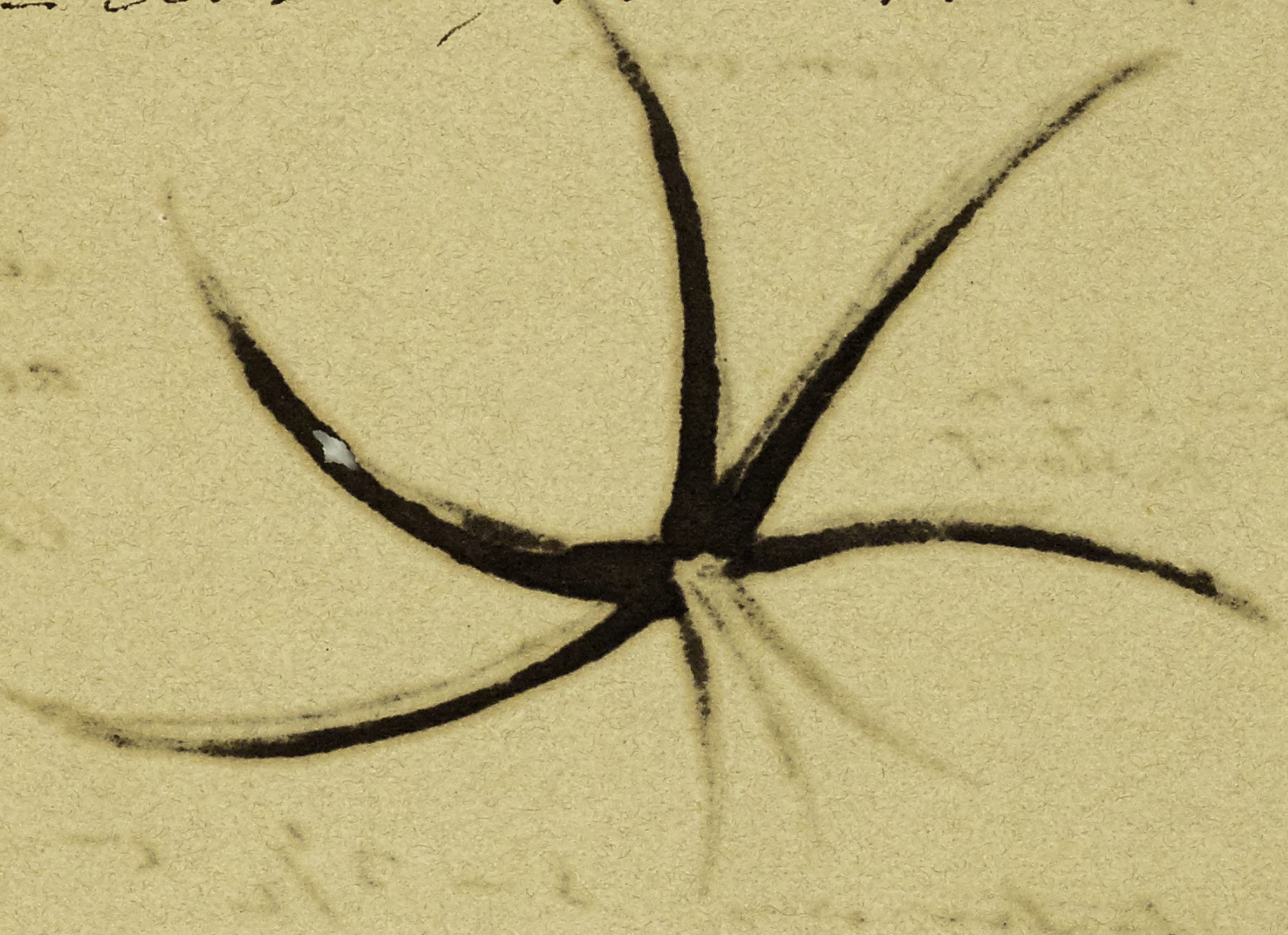
Stouter ones 3 – 3½ cm long, weaker ones 1–1½

over.

Burchell's notes say:

in saxis siccis campestribus globosus
mamillosus 2–6 pollicaris
vertex area centrali 2-pollicari
lana alba tectus, intra quam aculei
juniores.

"mamillosus" would indicate
a mamillaria, not a Melocactus.



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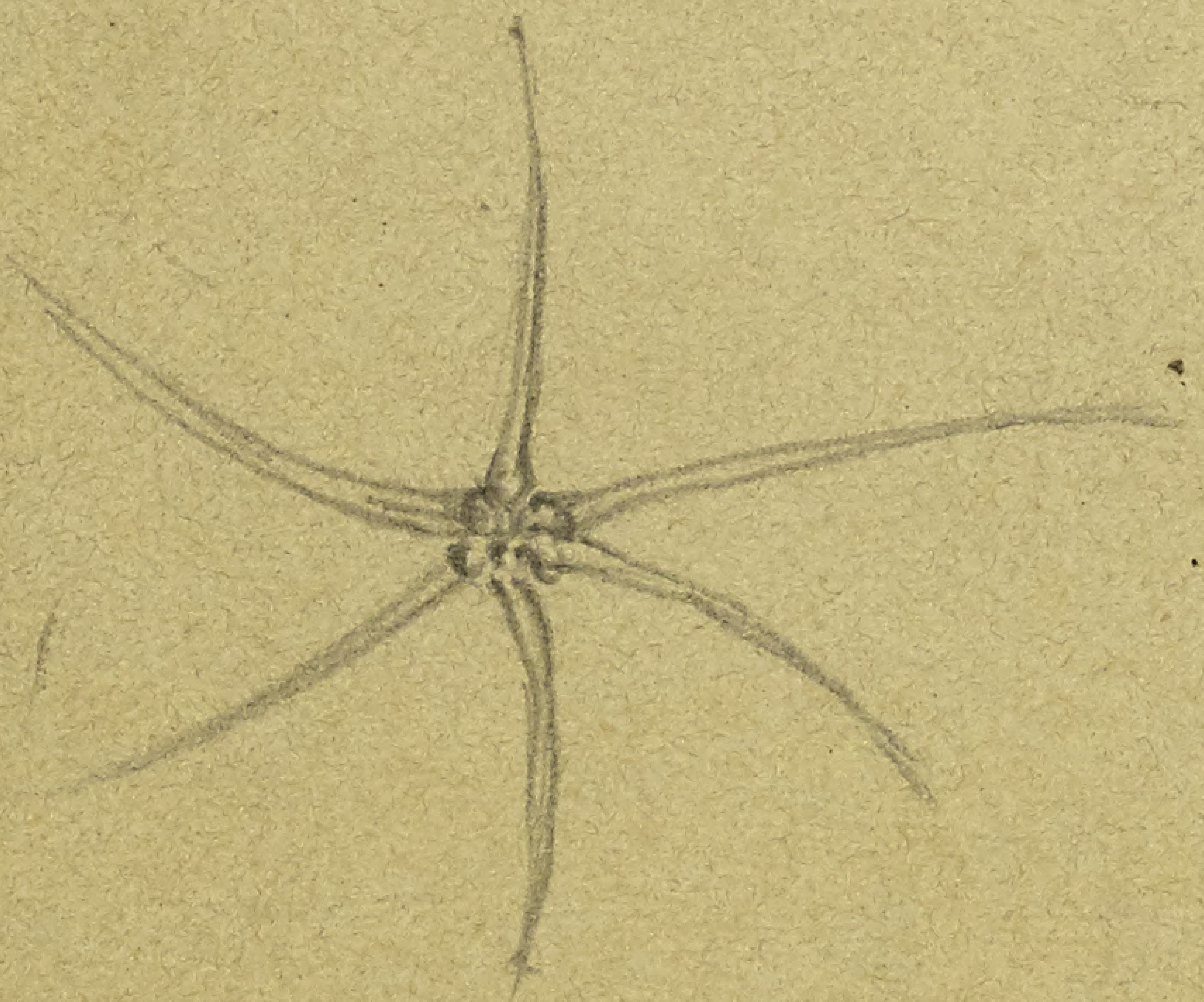
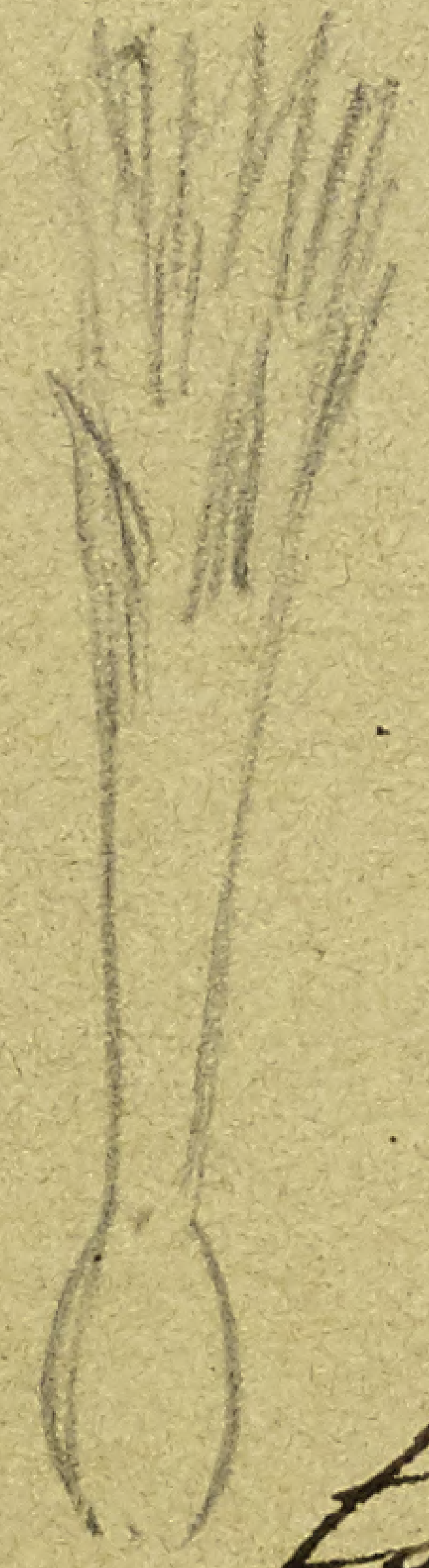
Flora Neo Granada - Magdalena Herb Kew
Sept 1869

728. Melocactus

J. F. Holton Dec 1852 Supra Honda
Opia





6 rather slender
horncoloured, slightly
curved spines, nodose
at base, 12-16 mm long

snow white tomentum, with longer
red bristles, on cephalium

Flower 35 mm long, naked below,
13-15 sepals and petals lance linear, acute

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Dr Poselger remarks (Berlin 29 Jun 1869) that the mass of *Echinocacti* is ligneous and remains heavy and somewhat solid in the dry dead plant while all *Melocacti* are empty and hollow evidently having no compact cellular tissue, only loose or scattered fibres.

Echinopsis is like Melocactus.

1044

Phyllocereus crenatus = Ph. anguliger.

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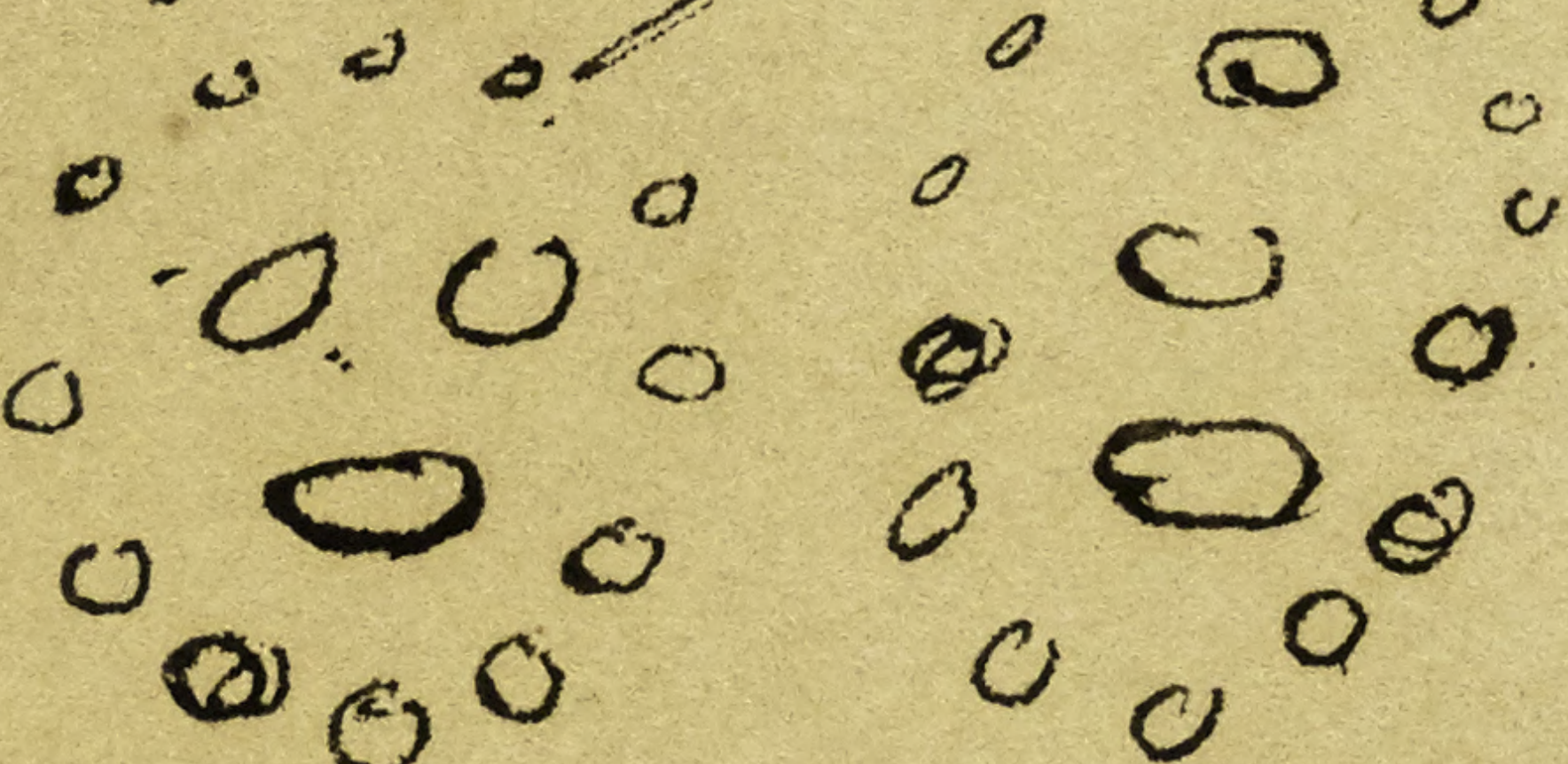
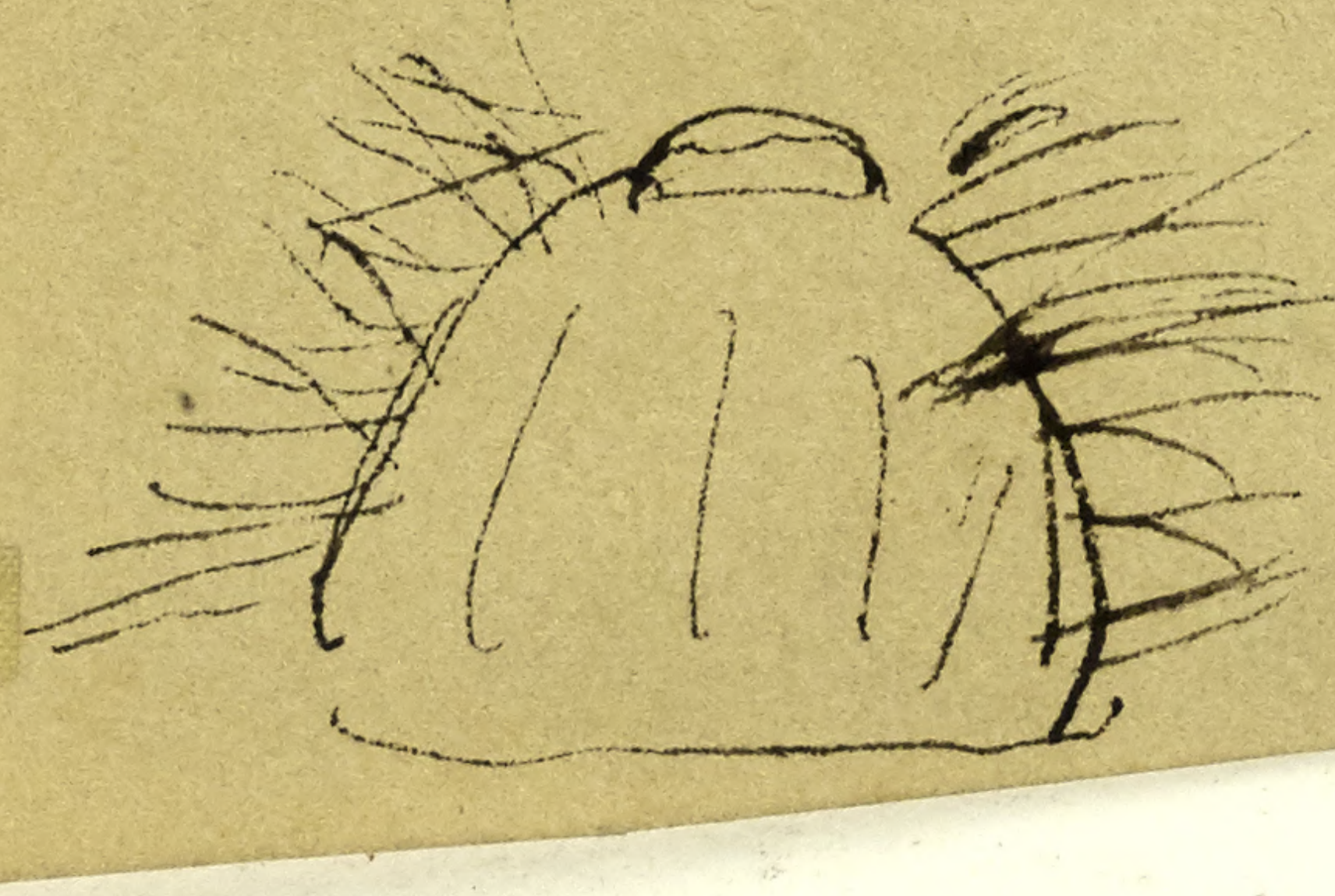
Dead Cacti, Coll. Herbrug. Monac. Nov. 1857.

Melocactus, pale green, or gray apparently with (13 or 15?) obtuse broad ribs, areolae 1 inch apart, 7–8 radial spines, lowest much stouter ¾ upper ½–¼ inches long; central spine stout ½–¾ inch long, slightly curved upward — white wool with red bristles. — No label — Is it the Brasilian plant of Martius, named by him M. mirabilis?

1045

Melocactus without label. 15 ribs rather acute, areolae approximate, ~~2 or 3 central~~ spines long, straight and brown, larger ones flattened above ~~either~~ central ones 2–3, ~~[illegible]~~ either in a vertical row or in a triangle, 1½–2½ inches long; radial ones 10–14, lowest ones stoutest 1–1¼ inch lateral ones weaker but rather longer, upper ones shortest and weakest. whole plant 6 inches high, pyramidal, cephalium small





Collection of dead Cacti
in Herb. reg. Monac.

Cereus Columna Trajani Karwinski Mexico

1 foot high, 18 ribs, 2–2½ inch thick. spines almost all broken off; coming out in a whole fascicle as in many Southern Cerei. – Spines white, hyaline, 1 large (2") angular central deflexed, 1 shorter one (½") above this porrect; the others slender short more or less radiating, lower ones longer – These spines seem to have grown here; 1 bunch, probably original, is found loose, it shows 4 central bulbous spines, the three upper ones ½–1 inch, the lower one 3–4 inches long. – The plant is very near C. enneacanthus or C. stramineus and no doubt belongs to that section – texture hard,

approximate

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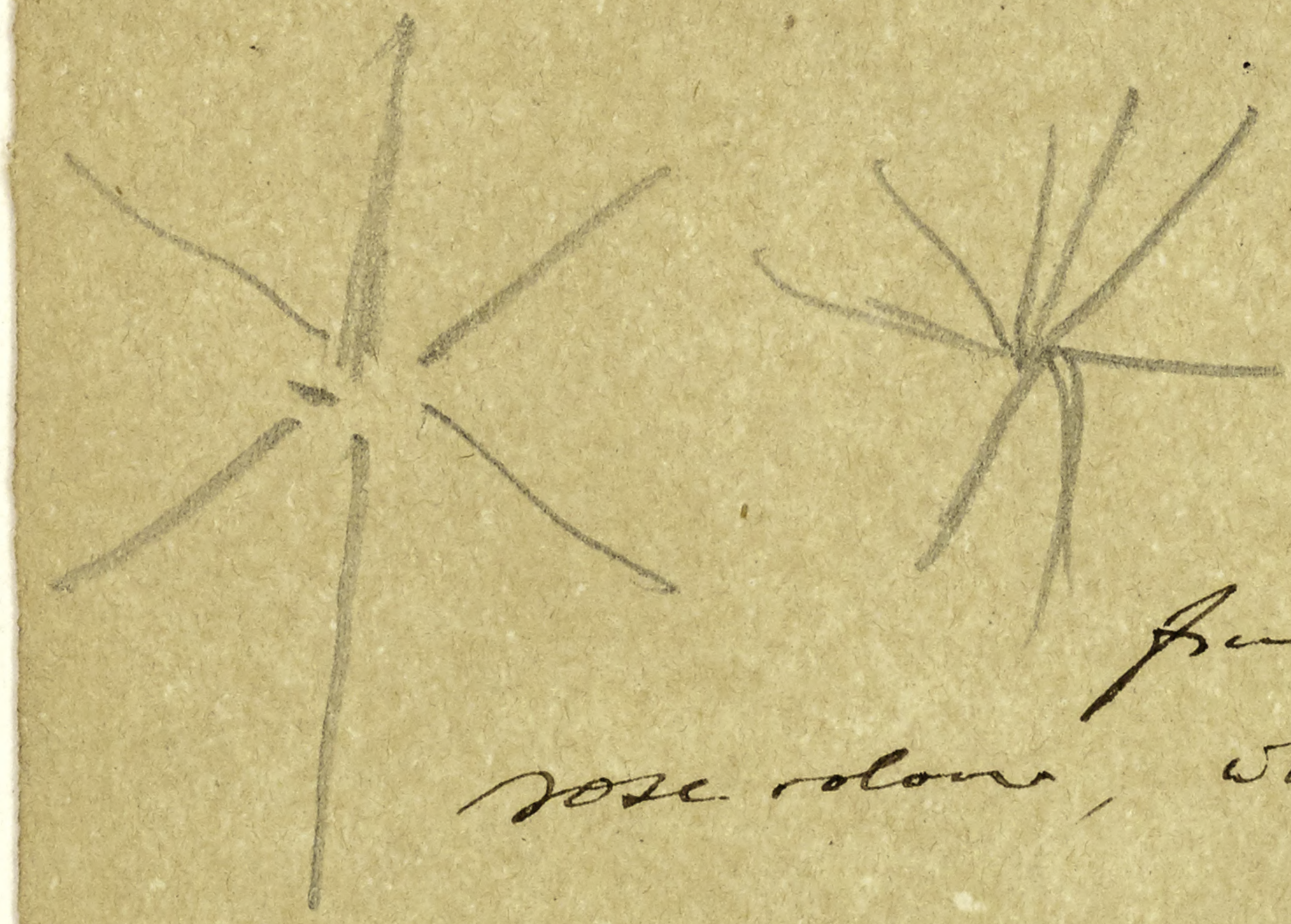
Kew Sept 1869

Melocactus communis Bot. Mag. 58. 3090
stamens inserted in faux only 1831

Melocact. depressus Hook Bot. Mag. 65
(1839) 3691
6 inches across, 4 inches high Cephalium here
not developed – 10 ribs 5 – 7 spines
straight or slightly
curved, pale



Cephalium 3/4 inch high,
fruit 1 inch long, delicate
rose colour, whitish – seeds reticulate

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Melocactus in Mus. botan. of the Jardin des Plantes, April 8 1869

1047

Melocactus communis many living specimens & dead

(Melocacti said to succeed most admirably in Caen)

Melocactus cephalenoplus Lem. – central spines curved upwards – wool short and flowers unusually long

Melocactus marked No III tab. 1. with 14 ribs, mostly 2 central spines, the shorter one directed upwards. a hemispherico-conical specimen, with very short wool

M. Monvillei cylindric, 9 ribs, mostly a fascicle of weaker spines at upper edge of areolae

M. goniodacanthus, conical, ~~lower~~ strongest spines ~~the~~ lower edge of areolae

M. Brongniartii smaller spines of areola downward, on lower part of areola.

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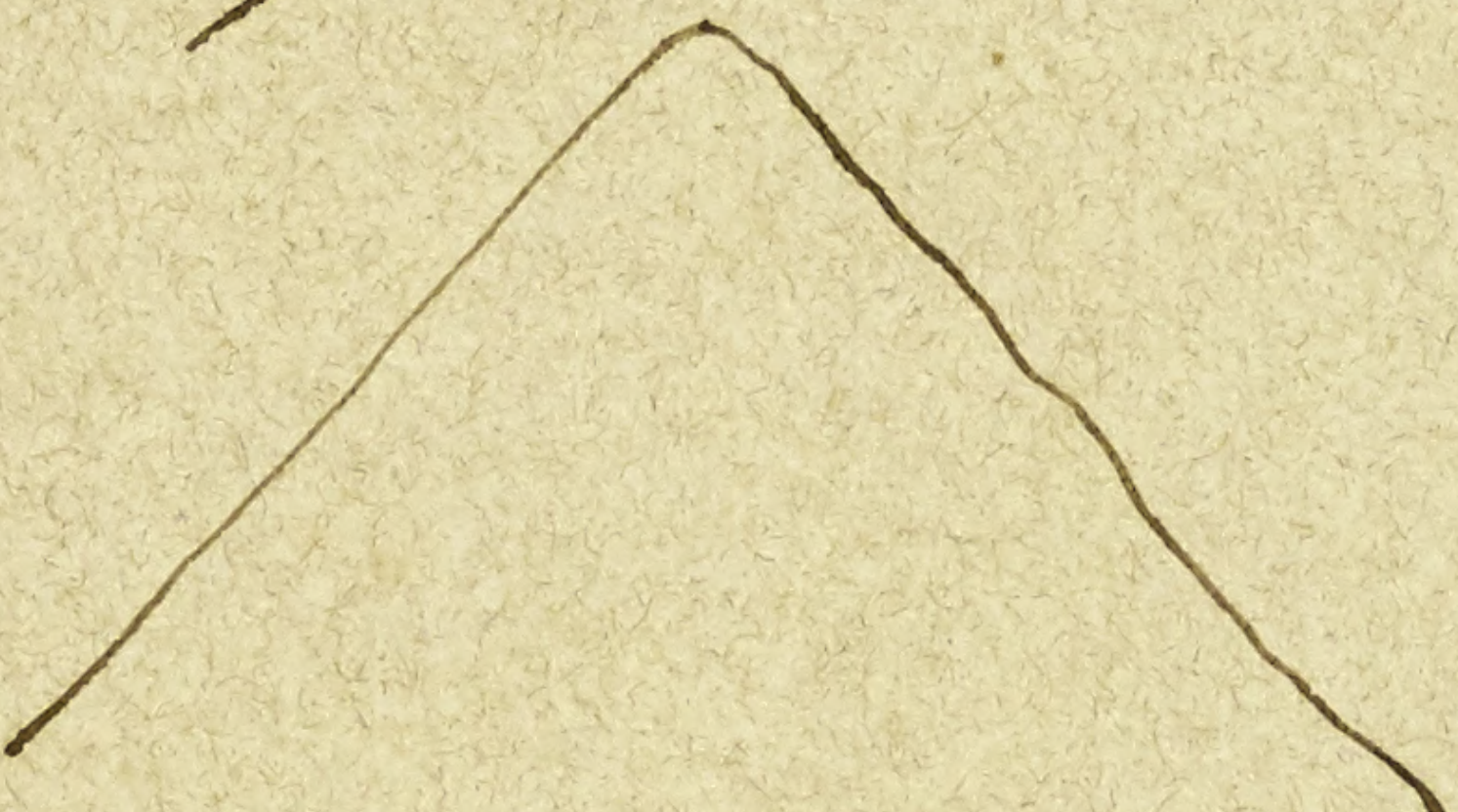
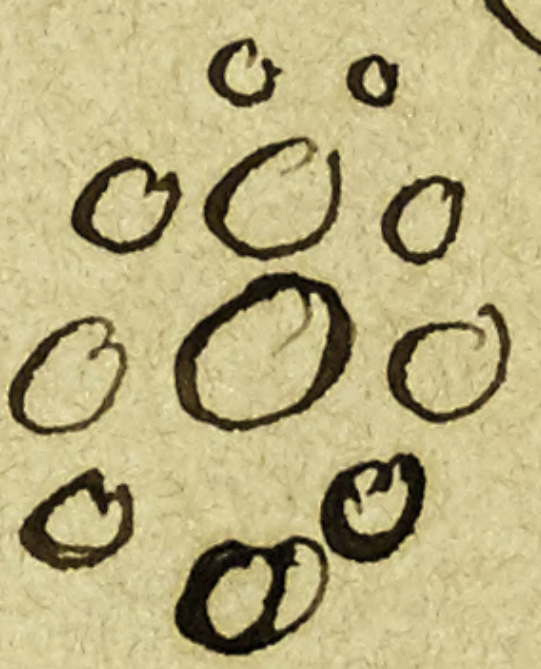
Hort Kew Aug. 1857

Melocactus, the largest specimen 17 ribs, above, towards the top divided into 23 ribs, oval, subpyramidal 1 foot diameter 1½ foot high; spines whitish top with white wool and longer brown spines or rather bristles giving it a red brown appearance

Another Melocactus 13 ribs, head or top similar to last; ribs broad, triangular, but acute from a broad base;

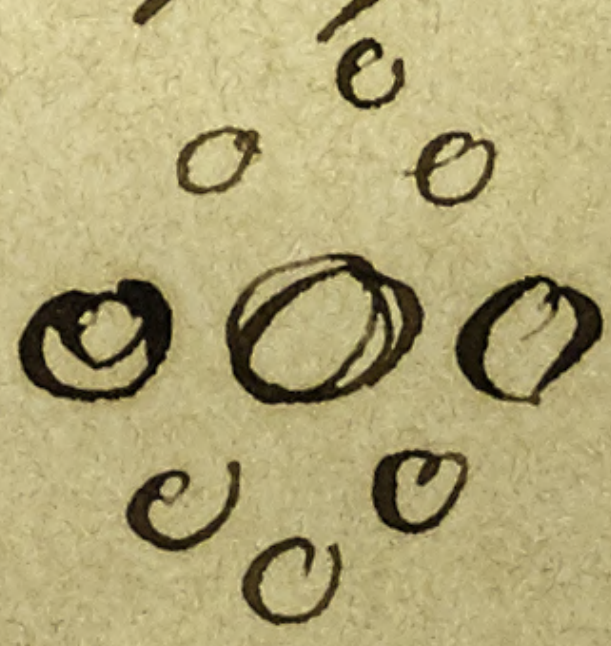


Spines dark brown smooth,

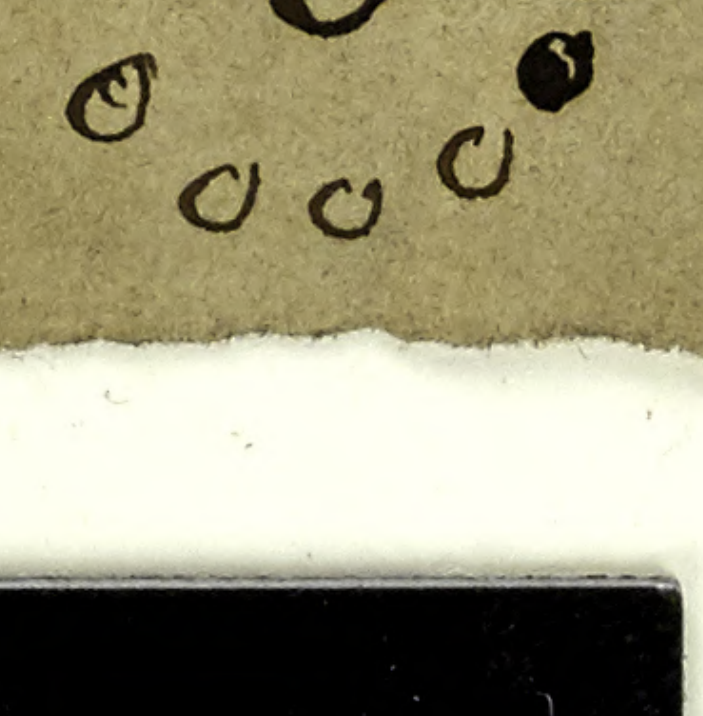


very little curved fruit pale red, 2 inches long, not ejected.

Other plants have white straight spines lower ones much longer than upper ones of the same areola.



or thinner, longer and more spines



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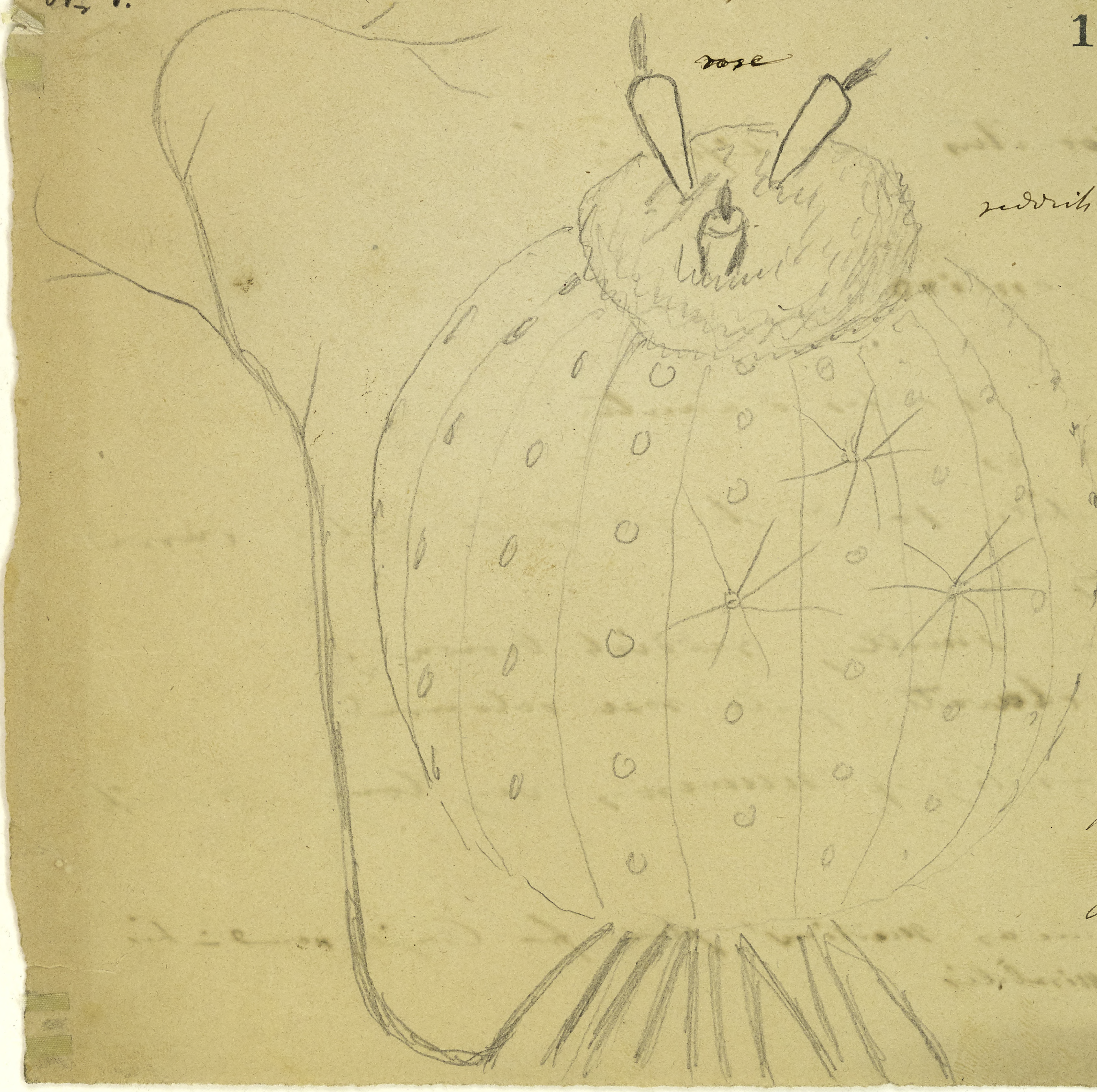
No 1. weddell's south American Cactaceae

1049


rose
reddish brown

Melocactus

Rio Janeiro

No. 1.

„ Melocactus placentiformis "

Prov. Rio Janeira

Globose, 4 inches diameter
14 or 15 ribs;
spines white 7 or 8 straight or somewhat curved
3/4 inch long;
Cephalium small, reddish brown;
berries clavate, pale rose coloured.
roots consisting of numerous very long and thick fibres

This seems to be the same as Martius' plant from Brazil, named in his Herbarium M. mirabilis

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May 18 1871

1050

Melocactus

Several dried specimens, examined the last days, have disclosed the following arrangement:

The vegetative part of the plant is strongly ribbed bearing more or less stout spines

The floriferous part bears very slightly elevated tubercules in spiral arrangement of a high order (~~[illegible]~~ (probably usually about 34/89) or even more; this in a St Domingo Melocactus brought home by Dr Parry)

The transition takes place thus: The uppermost spines on the ribs become slenderer, the areolae bear longer wool and (as especially seen in Dr Poselgers Mel.) close to the aculeiferous is a smaller, long woolly, axillary areola developed, bearing a few thin short (red)! spines

At the same time the confinement of areolae into ribs is dissolved, and the next areolae, in spiral order show a much reduced spiniferous areola with a much larger axillary floriferous one, coalescing, bearing long wool and in the centre or a little above it the flower. The spines of the aculeiferous (primary) areola are much increased in number (20-30) always stouter than the others ~~and~~ in all specimens I have examined I find 4 of them (the lowest ones) especially prominent, ~~though the number is more~~ but all (those of primary as well as secondary areola) are subulate and towards the ~~tips~~ increase into a broader ~~narrowly~~ lanceolate, bright red tip.

Can it be, that the primary areola disappears entirely and only the secondary, axillary, floriferous one remains — a compact spike, without bracts — ?

(spadix?)

Cotyledons in 2 Melocacti examined irregular but mostly transverse

Melocactus seen in British Museum (Sept 15 1869) with two Cephalia on one trunk

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Dr Engelmann Credit.

Lieberknecht Jacob	in full.	4	50	3	50.
Kiesel	[illegible]	10.	00	10.	00
Wetzel	~~in full.~~	5	50	5.	50.
~~Mann~~		10.	00		
Lehman	an acct. [illegible] 5	7	00	3.	00
Obliger	in full	5	25.	4. 4	00 50.
~~Hebrank~~ Conrad		10	50		
Burk	[illegible]	6	50		
~~Worte~~ Wtb.		13	00		
Steffenauer	fur Hoelzle 15	19	50		
~~Bauer~~		11	75		
Liebernikel [illegible]		19	75		
Schaefer Heinr.	/ in full	3.	25	2.	00
~~Schmidt~~, Jac.		4.	00		
Schick Andr.	/ in full	7.	00	5.	00
Wolking	5	6.	00		
Benz Wtb.		5.	00		
Huhn	/ in full	2	00	1	50.
Fries		2	75		
Sturrel		2	00		
~~Stark~~ Stahl.	suit bef. Mc Kinney J.	12	50	12	50
Jackson		15	00		
Fredrick Gotfr.		4.	00		
Eichhof		8	75		
Curt Müller		13	00		
Zimmer		25.	00		
Senier		20.	00		
Waddingham		10.	00		
~~Porter~~	[illegible]	17	25		
~~Schaefer~~		15	00		
Wm ~~Mc~~ Lin Schneider	Americanus quidam [illegible]	3	00.		
~~Schlosser~~		3	25		
Bell Isaac	[illegible]	15	00		

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